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SOURCE Tui Jih Ho-yueh Wen-t'i, (Problems of the Japanese Peace Treaty), published by the Ya-shou Shih-chi She (Asia Century Association). (Information requested.)

AUTONOMOUS SENTIMENT AMONG RYUKYU ISLANDERS

Chang Ch'i-chun

The Society of Ryukyu (Lin-ch'iu) Revolutionaries was organized after World War II by a group of Ryukyu residents of Formosa who had been engaged in revolutionary activities against Japan with a view to placing the Ryukyus within the Chinese orbit.

The leader of this group, Hsi-yu-ming, interviewed in Taiwan on 14 August 1947 briefly indicated his belief that, considered from the standpoint of history, customs, civilization, race, and defense, the Ryukyus belonged to the Chinese orbit. The Ryukyus and Taiwan, separated by a very narrow strip of water, are mutually dependent, and China should strive to secure both. Although the US paid a high price for the Ryukyus, this cannot be adduced as a sufficient reason for permanent occupation. Premier Yoshida in his suggestions to General MacArthur in May 1947 concerning Japan's hopes about the peace treaty stated that it was Japan's hope that she might exercise a joint trusteeship with the US over the Ryukyu islands. This is plain evidence that Japan reveals no spirit of repentance. In the interests of the peace of the Far East the spirit of conquest must be entirely unrooted from the minds of the Japanese.

The above statements are sufficient to reveal the determination of the inhabitants of the Ryukyus to strive for a return to their former autonomous status.

The historical portion of this article indicates that before the Japanese occupation the Ryukyus had an autonomous status under their own monarch, in which Chinese sovereignty was recognized and a biennial payment of tribute was made.⁷

The disposition of the Ryukyus, of course, must be made at the peace conference. We hope that the Allies will recognize China's claim to her lost

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territories. In view of the importance of the Ryukyus to the general peace of the area, China would be willing to permit a UN defense force to make use of the islands, provided it was done without detriment to China's sovereignty.

President Truman has solemnly declared America's firm intention to continue support of the UN. Hence the return of the Ryukyus to China would be of no disadvantage to the US.

Geography and history must be the guide in deciding international problems. International justice indicates that the Ryukyus should be a part of China.

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